



PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS OF VERMONT

20 Kimball Avenue, Suite 108 • South Burlington, VT 05403 • (802) 652-0085

August 22, 2011

Federal Communications Commission
Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell

c/o Marlene Dortch, Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioners:

As President of the Professional Firefighters of Vermont, I know just how vital timely responses are in the heat of the moment. Clear and effective communications between citizens and emergency first responders is one of the keys to our success. In this profession, mistakes lead to tragedy. Too many areas in Vermont have inadequate public safety communications systems. Without appropriate wireless network coverage to expand these communications systems, emergency first responders are not able to handle emergencies as swiftly and efficiently as they could. That is why we are supporting and are asking the FCC to endorse the merger between AT&T and T-Mobile.

While wireless coverage is a major issue for the rural parts of our state it is even an issue for the larger towns and cities that are served by the diligent members of the Professional Firefighters of Vermont. It is true that these areas tend to have better coverage than many of their rural counterparts, but they are not blanketed with service from multiple providers.

This can be an issue when locating an emergency caller through the E-911 system especially when the caller is not well connected through their provider.

As importantly, we support this merger because 20,000 T-Mobile employees will finally be able to organize into a union. These are some of the toughest times Americans have faced since the Great Depression and the gains in wages and benefits from unionizing will help put these 20,000 families onto stronger financial footing.

Firefighters and other emergency first responders regularly risk their lives for the sake of others. To do their jobs to the best of their abilities to keep everyone as safe as possible, it is essential that Vermont gains the expanded network coverage that the merger between AT&T and T-Mobile will provide. Consumers, businesses, and all citizens of Vermont will be safer because of the benefits our state will receive as a result of this merger.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt Vinci', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matt Vinci
President
Professional Firefighters of Vermont